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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Australia, Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Romania, Solomon Islands, Sweden, United States of America: draft resolution

Large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/225 and 45/197 concerning large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, which were adopted by consensus on 22 December 1989 and 21 December 1990, respectively,

Also recalling, in particular, that the General Assembly recommended that all members of the international community agree to certain measures specified in the operative paragraphs of resolution 44/225,

Further recalling the relevant principles elaborated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1/ which are referred to in the seventh to tenth preambular paragraphs of resolution 44/225,

Expressing deep concern about reports of expansion of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing activities on the high seas in contravention of resolutions 44/225 and 45/197, including attempts to expand large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing in the high seas areas of the Indian Ocean,

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1/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

Commending the unilateral, regional and international efforts that have been undertaken by members of the international community and international organizations to implement and support the objectives of resolutions 44/225 and 45/197,

Noting that at the Twenty-second South Pacific Forum, held at Pohnpei on 29 and 30 July 1991, the Heads of Government reaffirmed their opposition to large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, 2/ and in this regard, inter alia, welcomed the entry into force on 17 May 1991 of the Convention for the Prohibition of Long Driftnets in the South Pacific,

Noting the Castries Declaration, 3/ in which the Authority of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States resolved to establish a regional regime for the regulation and management of the pelagic resources in the Lesser Antilles region that would outlaw the use of driftnets and called upon other States in the region to cooperate in this regard,

Welcoming the actions taken by members of the international community which have resulted in the cessation of all large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing activities in the South Pacific in advance of the date stipulated in paragraph 4 (b) of resolution 44/225 for the termination of such activities,

Also welcoming the decision of other members of the international community to cease large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas,

Commending the efforts of many members of the international community to compile data on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and to submit their findings to the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Noting the contributions to the report of the Secretary-General, made by some members of the international community and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Also noting the significant concerns at the impact of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the marine environment expressed by members of the international community and competent regional fisheries bodies,

Further noting that, in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 44/225, members of the international community have reviewed the best available scientific data on the impacts of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, and have concluded that this practice has major adverse impacts which threaten the conservation and sustainable management of living marine resources,

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2/ See A/46/344, annex.

3/ A/46/64, annex.

Noting that the concerns expressed about the unacceptable impacts of large-scale pelagic fishing in resolutions 44/225 and 45/197 have been confirmed and that evidence has not demonstrated these impacts can be prevented,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 44/225 and 45/197;

2. Calls upon all members of the international community to end all large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas effective 30 June 1992;

3. Reaffirms the importance it attaches to compliance with the present resolution and encourages all members of the international community to take measures individually and collectively to prevent large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing operations on the high seas;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and well-established scientific institutions with expertise in relation to living marine resources;

5. Requests the members and organizations referred to above to submit information concerning activities or conduct inconsistent with the terms of the present resolution to the Secretary-General;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.